This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 . (Currently Amended) An optical amplifying device comprising a slab of material which is [[side-]] pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material ~~in use~~ to provide a gain region~~, the device comprising path definition means for~~ adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, ~~wherein the path definition means is arranged such that~~ said path ~~comprises~~ comprising at least two, ~~spatially different, grazing incidence~~ spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in [[the]] said gain region.

2 . (Original) A device according to Claim 1 wherein the grazing incidence reflections include reflections of not more than 20 degrees.

3 . (Original) A device according to Claim 1 wherein the grazing incidence reflections include reflections of not more than 10 degrees.

4 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the gain region has more than one gain area, and the reflections occur in different respective gain areas.

5 . (Original) A device according to Claim 4 wherein at least two gain areas of the gain region are different spatial areas of a common gain region.

6 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 4 wherein at least two gain areas are each provided by different respective pump sources.

7 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, provided with feedback to the gain region enabling the device to lase in use so as to provide an optical source.

8 . (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein the path ~~definition means~~ comprises at least one mirror.

9 . (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein the path ~~definition means~~ comprises at least one surface of the slab of material.

10 . (Cancelled)

11 . (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the gain extraction associated with each grazing incidence reflection in the gain region is of a comparable magnitude.

12 . (Currently Amended) A method of amplifying optical radiation ~~which method comprises passing the radiation through a side-pumped bounce amplifier along a path providing total internal reflection at grazing incidence at at least two spatially different locations on a side-pumped face of the amplifier~~ comprising side-pumping a slab of material via side face thereof

with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material to provide a gain region adjacent said side face, and guiding said optical radiation along a path comprising at least two spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in said gain region..

13 . (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a first optical amplifying device comprising a slab of material which is [[side-]] pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material ~~in use~~ to provide a gain region~~, the device comprising path definition means for~~ adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, ~~wherein the path definition means is arranged such that~~ said path ~~comprises~~ comprising at least two, ~~spatially different, grazing incidence~~ spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in [[the]] said gain region; and

a second optical amplifying device for receiving and amplifying device for receiving and amplifying radiation output by the optical source comprising a slab of material which is [[side-]] pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material ~~in use~~ to provide a gain region~~, the device comprising path definition means for~~ adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, ~~wherein the path definition means is arranged such that~~ said path ~~comprises~~ comprising at least two, ~~spatially different, grazing incidence~~ spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in [[the]] said gain region;

wherein said first and second optical amplifying devices share a common slab of material.

14. (New) A device as claimed in claim 7, in which a common slab of material both amplifies said optical radiation and receives and amplifies radiation output by said optical source.